



November 1999

# Taylor Lumber Treatment Removal

## Sheridan, Oregon

In the next couple of weeks, either the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Taylor Lumber Treatment Inc, will begin removal activities at the Taylor Lumber Treatment facility.

### What is the Problem?

Chemicals used during the treatment of lumber at Taylor Lumber Treatment (TLT) have been found in high concentrations in the soil and drainage ditches surrounding the facility. The chemicals at the Site include pentachlorophenol (PCP), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and arsenic. Chemicals of concern have also been found in water samples taken from the Yamhill River. These include PCP, PAHs, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals.

EPA has evaluated the site and determined that a threat to human health and the environment exists from prolonged exposure to contaminated soils and water. Immediate action is needed to protect against exposure to the chemicals found at the site. EPA will use authorities and funding provided by the federal Superfund law to conduct the necessary immediate cleanup activities.

### What is Going to be Done?

TLT has been given an opportunity to conduct the removal activities. If TLT chooses not to, EPA and its contractors will conduct the removal. Regardless of who conducts the removal, the following actions will occur:

- Removing contaminated soils from ditches adjacent to the facility.
- Placing an asphalt cap around the main treatment plant to prevent further movement of airborne contaminants, such as arsenic. The cap will also reduce any movement of contaminants through the groundwater.

- Treating contaminated soil where possible. If the soil cannot be treated it will be taken off-site for disposal.

If necessary, EPA will place a protective barrier in the ground to keep contaminated ground water from moving off-site.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and EPA share responsibility for ensuring environmental rules are followed at TLT. DEQ issues permits for air emissions and water discharges. EPA has the lead for hazardous waste management and cleanup.

### Community Involvement Plan

For sites where removal activities are expected to take longer than 120 days, EPA develops a Community Involvement Plan, or CIP. As part of the CIP, EPA talks with local officials and citizens about their concerns regarding the removal. These concerns are documented in the CIP, along with EPA's plan on how to keep the community informed and involved in site activities. During the week of December 13th, EPA representatives will be meeting with local officials and would like to talk with anyone concerned about the site. **If you would like to discuss your concerns about the removal activities, please contact Krista Rave, toll-free, at 1-800-424-4372.**

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## Background

The TLT site processes and treats wood. It is located approximately one mile west of Sheridan, Oregon at the intersection of Rock Creek Road and Oregon State Highway 18. The Site has a number of buildings including a maintenance shop, a sawmill, a tank farm with 13 above ground storage tanks, and a laboratory. Willamette Pacific Railroad operates a line through the Site and hauls treated and untreated wood products twice a day.

The sawmill began operating in 1946. Operations include the peeling, milling, planing, and chipping of raw wood to produce lumber products. The ends of the finished lumber products are painted in order to prevent moisture loss. Wood chips and bark are used as hog fuel in the boiler, which generates steam for the facility. Waste and debris from site operations were deposited in an area southeast of the planing mill from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Wood treating to condition and pressure-treat wood products with preservatives began in 1966. Wood products treated at the facility include lumber, poles, pilings, posts, railroad ties, cross arms, and plywood. Wood preserving chemicals include petroleum-based creosote and PCP solutions. Chemonite, a 3% water-based solution containing arsenic acid, copper salts, zinc, and ammonia, was also used as a wood preservative from 1982 to 1996.

The facility had numerous oil spills of PCP and creosote, including two recently in February 1999 of 3,500 gallons and September 1999 of 30,000 gallons. Cleanup of the spills are underway, with EPA oversight.

Surface water from the drainage ditches surrounding the facility drain into the South Yamhill River. The City of Sheridan municipal water intake is located approximately 1.5 miles downstream from one of the drainage ditches. The Yamhill River is also used for recreational fishing and has sensitive fisheries, including steelhead & salmon.

The site is currently being evaluated for placement on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of sites targeted for further investigation and possible cleanup under Superfund authority.

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## If you would like more information

A copy of the Action Memorandum, which describes the cleanup actions required by EPA, is located at the Sheridan Public Library for your review. All future documents related to the removal activities will be placed in the Library, at 142 NW Yamhill Street in Sheridan, Oregon.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following people:

**Michael Sibley**, On-Scene Coordinator, at (206) 553-1886

**Krista Rave**, Community Involvement Coordinator, at (206) 553-6686

Or you can contact either person by calling toll free 1-800-424-4372

EPA has developed a web site about the removal activities at TLT and will place fact sheets and other information about the removal at this site. The address for TLT is: <http://epainotes1.rtpnc.epa.gov:7777/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/TLT>

**If you would like to receive future fact sheets about EPA's activities at the TLT facility, please contact Krista Rave, Community Involvement Coordinator, toll free at 1-800-424-4372, (extension -6686).**

*To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the EPA representatives.*



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